

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 AGR-05 L-03 H-02 /088 W
----- 061623

R 092105Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 410

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 1012

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JM

SUBJECT: JAMAICAN RICE QUOTA

REF: DORRANCE/NORTON TELCONS

1. EXTREMELY DIFFICULT JAMAICAN ECONOMIC SITUATION INCLUDING SHORTAGE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS, AND IMPORT RESTRICTIONS DESCRIBED IN KINGSTON 0922, 0924 AND 0954. 1976 IMPORTS LIMITED TO J\$845 MILLION, AND FOOD IMPORTS CUT 18 1/2 PERCENT FROM 1975 LEVEL. FOOD IMPORTS JAN-NOV. '75 WERE J\$170 MILLION. NET FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES ESTIMATED AT J\$25 MILLION AT END OF FEBRUARY OR ABOUT 1 1/2 WEEKS IMPORTS.

2. IMPORTATION OF GUYANA RICE IS SIMILAR ANY OTHER IMPORT SINCE PAYMENTS MADE IN US DOLLARS.

3. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR SOURCES, THERE ARE 2 PRICES FOR GUYANESE RICE. ONE IS GOVT-TO-GOVT PRICE FOR BULK RICE FOR WHICH GOJ PAYS US\$ 27.60 PER METRIC TON F.O.B. OR ABOUT US 1.2 CENTS PER
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LB. OTHER PRICE IS THAT PAID BY PRIVATE SECTOR FOR

PACKAGED RICE (31 LB. PACKAGES) WHICH IS US\$517.50 PER
LONG TON C.I.F. OR ABOUT US .23 CENTS PER LB.

4. TWO TIERED PRICE SYSTEM REFERS TO ABOVE.
SPECIAL AMENDMENTS TO PRICE CONTROL ORDERS WOULD
ALSO HAVE TO BE ISSUED IF U.S. RICE IMPORTED.

5. EMBASSY HAS REPEATEDLY PRESENTED DEPARTMENT'S
POSITION THIS ISSUE AT ALL LEVELS GOJ. AMB HAS
DISCUSSED MATTER WITH MINISTERS BLAKE AND PATTERSON,
DCM WITH PERMSEC MINEXTAFF, ECONOFF WITH PERMSECS
AND UNDER SECRETARY IN BOTH MINISTRIES, COMOFF WITH
PERMSECS ETC. IN EVERY CASE, EMBASSY HAS BEEN
ASSURED GOJ WOULD DO ITS UTMOST ALLOW SOME IMPOR-
TATION US RICE. EMBASSY HOPES DEPT. CAN APPRECIATE
THAT EFFORT BEING MADE BY GOJ TO SOMEHOW ACCOMMODATE
US RICE INDUSTRY ON THIS MATTER WITHIN CONSTRAINTS OF
VERY DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION. EMBASSY CONTINUING
TO CONTACT MINISTRIES EVERY FEW DAYS AND WILL REPORT GOJ
ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
GERARD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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